

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-11 and 13 are now present in this application.

Claims 1 and 8 are independent.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8 have been amended. Claims 4, 7, 12 and 14-18 have been canceled. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings, stating that "at least two diodes connected in parallel" recited in claims 14 and 18 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s).

The Applicants respectfully submit that claims 14 and 18 have been canceled thereby rendering the objection moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Examiner Interview

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the telephonic interview, which was conducted

on June 17, 2004. During the interview, Applicants' representative requested clarification of the basis of allowable subject matter indicated in claim 7.

Further, the Applicants' representative informed the Examiner that claims 1 and 8 would be amended to include all of the limitations of the allowable claims. The claims have been amended in the manner discussed during the interview, and are believed to place the application into condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Avery in view of Miller. Claims 2, 4-6, 8-11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Avery in view of Miller, and further in view of Menon. Claims 14-16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Avery, in view of Miller and Menon, and further in view of Duvvury. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the present application, Applicants respectfully

submit that claims 4 and 14-18 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejections thereof moot. Further, independent claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 7 (along with intervening claim 4) and independent claim 8 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 12, thereby automatically placing claims 1 and 8 into condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11 and 13 depend on claims 1 and 8, and therefore are patentable at least for the reasons stated with respect to independent claims 1 and 8. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these art grounds of rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone

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Percy L. Square, Registration No. 51,084, at (703) 205-8034, in the Washington, D.C. area.

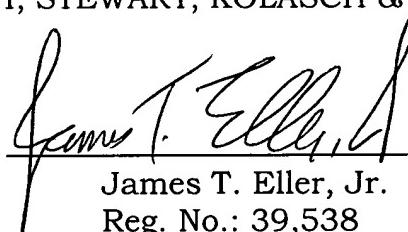
Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By:



James T. Eller, Jr.
Reg. No.: 39,538

JTE:PLS:jls

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
Telephone: (703)205-8000

Attachments: